

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 are active in this application, Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 21, 22, 24 and 27 are amended, and Claims 29-30 are added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 9-17 and 22-28 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Sato et al. (USP 5,640,462) and Slack (USP 6,487,432); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Rougee (USP 5,699,446); Claims 5-7 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Chen et al. (USP 6,047,080); Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Mori et al. (USP 4,868,747); and Claim 21 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Sato et al. and Slack in view of Mori et al.

First, the informalities identified in Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 16, 21 and 24 are corrected herewith. No new matter is added.

Next, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Patel for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicants' representatives on August 6, 2007, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Arguments similar to the ones presented during the interview are developed hereinafter.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-28, Applicants respectfully submits that the rejection is overcome because, in Applicants' view, amended independent Claims 1, 11, 16 and 24 patentably distinguish over the applied references as discussed below.

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a transformation section which transforms the plurality of images so as to locate the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at substantially a same display position" and "a display section which after

transformation by said transformation section displays the transformed images with the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at the substantially same display position.”

The amendments of Claim 1 find non-limiting support in the specification, for example, from page 14, line 22 to page 19, line 24, particularly, from page 18, line 18 to page 19, line 3. Therefore, the amendments are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

Instead, Sato et al. describes setting a region of interest (ROI) of a measuring object 9 (step 301 in Fig. 6 of Sato et al.). Information on rotating angle of the turn table 4 is transferred from the driving control apparatus 14 to the ROI control apparatus 17 (step 302 in Fig. 6 of Sato et al. and col. 6, lines 49-51). Thus, the position and the range 8 of the translation of the scanner 3 are determined (step 303 in Fig. 6 of Sato et al. and col. 6, lines 52-54). The driving control apparatus 14 regulates the X-ray source 1, the scanner 3 and the signal processing circuit 13 so as to translate *the measuring object 9* (step 302 in Fig. 6 of Sato et al. and col. 6, lines 61-64). Accordingly, data on the ROI are collected (Sato et al. at col. 7, lines 8-9).

However, Sato et al. does not teach or suggest transforming the collected images so as to locate the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at substantially a same display position, and displaying the respective transformed images with the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at the substantially same display position. Instead, Sato et al. only describes regulating the X-ray source 1, the scanner 3 and the signal processing circuit 13 so as to translate the measuring object 9 and collect the data on the ROI of the measuring object 9.

Thus, Sato et al. fails to teach or suggest at least “a transformation section which transforms the plurality of images so as to locate the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at substantially a same display position” and “a display section which

after transformation by said transformation section displays the transformed images with the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at the substantially same display position,” as recited in Claim 1.

Likewise, Slack also fails to teach or suggest the features above.

Similar arguments as set forth above also apply to Claims 11, 16 and 24.

Therefore, the applied references fail to teach or suggest at least “a transformation section which transforms the plurality of 2D images so as to locate the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at substantially a same display position” and “a display section which after transformation by said transformation section displays the transformed images with the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at the substantially same display position,” as recited in Claim 11.

Further, the applied references fail to teach or suggest at least “a transformation section which transforms the plurality of images so as to locate the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at substantially a same display position” and “a display section which after transformation by said transformation section displays the transformed images with the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at the substantially same display position,” as recited in Claim 16.

Further, the applied references fail to teach or suggest at least “a transformation section which transforms the plurality of 2D images so as to locate the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at substantially a same display position” and “a display section which after transformation by said transformation section displays the transformed images with the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at the substantially same display position,” as recited in Claim 24.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 11, 16 and 24 patentably distinguish over the applied references. Since Claims 2-10, 12-15, 17-23 and 25-28 are dependent directly or

indirectly from respective Claims 1, 11, 16 and 24, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Therefore, Claims 1-28 are believed to be allowable.

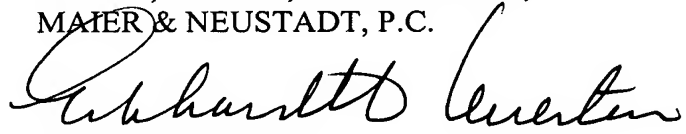
In addition, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest at least "a transformation section which transforms at least one of the first and second images so as to locate the region of interest and the respective corresponding areas at substantially a same display position" and "a display section which after transformation by said transformation section displays the first image and the second image with the region of interest of the first image and the corresponding area of the second image at the substantially same display position," as recited in new Claim 29.

Thus, new independent Claim 29 patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record, and therefore, Claim 29 and Claim 30 dependent from Claim 29 are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, it is believed that the outstanding rejection is overcome, and the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK\TY:pta

I:\ATTY\TYAMEND-RESPONSES\220415\220415 PROP RES DUE AUG 20 2007.DOC